

# GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME III.

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NUMBER 7.

## THE GREAT CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR AT MINNEAPOLIS.

It was our privilege, as a delegate from the Young People's Society of Grace Church to attend the Tenth International Convention of Christian Endeavor, held at Minneapolis July 9th to 12th. After a brief visit in the latter part of June with Father and Mother, and other friends at Glenford, Ohio, we returned home July 4th, to spend the following Sabbath with our people, and to make the necessary arrangements for our trip to the "Twin Cities of the Great Northwest." We left home on Tuesday morning July 7th, continuing our journey on that day as far as Chicago, where we tarried for two days. While in this great and bustling city of the West, we enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Charles Foucht, a nephew, and a former Goshen friend, Mr. Weston Beck, also Mr. Bodel, an old friend. These young men are industrious, jolly and genial fellows, and entertained us pleasantly while with them.

We left Chicago Wednesday night at 10:30, choosing the "Burlington" as our route to the Northwest. We had the good fortune of falling in with the Ohio delegation of Endeavorers at Chicago, going in a special train of some nine or ten coaches. We had a journey of some four hundred and fifty miles before us, and we were glad to find our lot cast in with such pleasant associates. As far as we were able to learn, every passenger on board was an endeavorer, and enroute for the convention.

The greater part of the night was spent in snoozing, though with frequent and prolonged intervals of wakefulness. At early dawn of the following morning we were just nearing the grand old Mississippi. For a distance of more than three hundred miles the Burlington winds along the very edge of the river. The scenery was truly grand. Upon our left was the river, its waters clear and beautiful, and calm as a molten mirror, with here and there a boat floating upon its bosom. Upon our right was the rock-ribbed, mountainous bank. Some places bare and bleak, while elsewhere covered with shrubbery and flowers. On and on we raced up the river, until the middle of the afternoon when we reached the Sister Cities of the Northwest. Already more than

a hundred miles this side of these cities, we were met by a committee of Endeavorers, who came to be our special escorts to the convention, and to see that every delegate was assigned a place of entertainment. This gave us confidence, and assurance, that we should have a warm welcome in the homes and hearts of the people of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

When we reached the end of our journey we at once reported at Convention Hall, registered, received the convention badge, and attended the opening exercises of the afternoon, which consisted of addresses of welcome and responses. At 5:30 p. m. we went to the Nicollet House, headquarters for the Indiana delegation, where according to previous arrangement we were to meet at that hour, Elder, D. W. Souder, who had preceded us to the West some ten or more days, also the Mr. Conrads of Minneapolis, uncles of Mrs. Zartman. These guests we were to be while in the city. We were not disappointed in our arrangements. When we came to the Nicollet office we at once found our good brother "Dan," quite good just at that time, feeling somewhat forlorn, and some like a fish out of water. He had drifted up the stream, anchored in the midst of a mighty host of endeavorers, himself an endeavorer at heart, but without the formalities and "conventionalities." He took the oath of allegiance, was furnished with a Grace Church and State badge, and then he felt much better. He seemed greatly rejoiced to meet his preacher in such a throng of strangers, and we are certain the preacher was no less rejoiced to meet him. In a short time after our arrival at the hotel we also met our friends, who show us no little kindness while in the Twin Cities, and who entertained us so very kindly and pleasantly. This was one of the very pleasant features of our visit to Minneapolis, namely that we were privileged to sojourn with our own kindred, and who did so much to make our stay pleasant.

## THE CONVENTION, AN INNUMERABLE GREAT COMPANY.

It is not possible to convey to another an accurate idea of the Minneapolis Convention. One must have been present to see, hear, and enjoy it, to

have a full conception of that great gathering of God's people.

Convention Hall had a seating capacity of fifteen to twenty thousand. At almost every meeting this immense hall was packed from first floor to the uppermost seats in the great galleries. Looking over that great multitude of uplifted faces it seemed to us that it was for numbers, almost like the stars of heaven, which no man can number, or as the grains of sand upon the seashore. The convention was inter-state and international. The delegates came from the four ends of our great Commonwealth, and adjoining provinces. There were more than eleven thousand delegates registered, and it was supposed that there were several thousand who were not registered, besides many thousands were present at the convention who are friends of the movement, but are not formally identified with it. It was the largest assembly of Christian people ever convened in the history of the Christian Church.

## THE CONVENTION, "INTER-RACETIONAL."

—One speaker said, this convention as the Christian Endeavor movement is not only international, but also "inter-race-tional." This was true. Among those who wore the convention badges were representatives of many races—Whites, Africans, Chinese, and Indians from the "Wild West." Christianity is to be the universal religion. It is adapted to all nations, all races, all people. The angel's message to the shepherds shall be fulfilled. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The Christian Endeavor movement is Christianity crystalized into life and action, and is universal in its adaptations to the needs and wants of man as is the Gospel itself.

## INTER-DENOMINATIONAL.

This was one of the most pleasant features of the convention, and is one of the most hopeful indications of this movement. For many centuries past the armies of the living God, have been broken up into fragments. There has been a long felt need of closer unity and co-operation among God's people. Possibly more time has been spent in building up denominational walls, than in building up the walls of the Lord's Kingdom. The words of our great Teacher are after all true, and our soul's vision should ever be

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firmly fixed upon them, "For one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." The Christian Endeavor Movement has already done much in establishing a closer bond of union among the young people of the different churches, and it looks very much as if this movement in the providence of God should be the means of so unifying the Lord's people, that the prayer which fell from the dying lips of our common Master should be speedily realized, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in me; and that the world may know that thou has sent me." This is a day of wonderful conquests and realizations in God's kingdom, but it is also a day of wonderful prophecies. Every land is open to the gospel. From every land comes the cry, "Come over and help us." The wide world is the field, and the harvest is ripe. Never before were the opportunities so great to evangelize the world as to-day. There is but one way for the church to meet these opportunities. Co-operation, unity and concentration of effort. The Christian Endeavor Movement promises to bring about these results. May it not be that this promising child of the church has been born for this divine purpose? Let us nurture it carefully, God has some great mission for it to fill. Several of our protestant churches are not in hearty and full sympathy with this movement, in the main because it is inter-denominational. Are not these churches standing in their own light? To us this feature of the movement seems altogether providential. We need to be cautious "Lest haply we may be found even to fight against God." We hail the day when denominational lines shall sink into obscurity, and when God's people shall know but one Master and one purpose, viz. the conquest of the world for Christ.

THE CONVENTION, AND CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR MOVEMENT, MISSIONARY.

In one of its distinctive features, this movement promises to be pre-eminently Missionary. This was clearly indicated by the spirit, addresses and reports of the Minneapolis convention. Through this movement the missionary spirit is nurtured and is laying hold of the hearts of the young people. Every local society is becoming a missionary society,

doing work of this distinctive nature in its own community. During the past year the local societies brought into the church from the ranks of their associate members, 82,500 souls. Many of these societies contribute monthly to the cause of missions, home and foreign. The Rev. A. A. Fulton, of Canton China, who delivered the "Missionary Address" at the convention, is enthusiastic in his efforts among the Endeavorers to induce them to give two cents per week for missions. Many of the local societies reported that they were educating young men and women who had dedicated themselves to the foreign mission work. And already scores of these Young Endeavorers are reported as having enlisted to go into the foreign field. A young Chinaman, who spoke in one of the open conference meetings of the convention, said, "I have been in this country four years. I have found Jesus through the help of the young people, and I am thankful for it." When asked what he now purposed doing, he said, "I am going back to my people, to tell them of Jesus." Through the concentrated efforts of the young people we may hope there shall be hundreds of such conversions. The future ministers, missionaries, and Sunday School teachers in our aggressive evangelical churches will come into the main from the ranks of our Christian Endeavor Societies. This characteristic spirit of this movement is all summed up in the command of our common Master, "Go ye into all world and preach the gospel so every creature."

[CONTINUED.]

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER—HIS QUALIFICATIONS.

None but a Christian should be a teacher in the Sunday School. As his work is for the gospel of Christ, to bring souls to Christ and build up souls in Christ, he must needs be a devout follower of Christ. No one can speak earnestly and confidently in behalf of any cause, unless he believes in it. No man can teach the Bible effectually unless he believes it to be true, nor can he teach the gospel except as the divine plan for saving souls.

He should have a personal experience of Christianity, being reconciled to God, and enjoy the consciousness of pardon, and communion with Christ, for only such can have sympathy with the gospel, can understand its mysteries, and teach it to others. As a blind man cannot understand sight, so the unconverted heart cannot comprehend spiritual things.

To the teacher Paul says, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal

life. Whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." "He should show both the character which he would impart, and live in the realm to which he aspires to lead his class."

The teacher should be a member of the church, and whatever influence he possesses should be given to the church. The teacher who is outside the church will not, and can not lead his scholars into the church. "He should be attached, not to the church in general, but to that particular church whose doctrines, forms, methods, and spirit are most nearly in accord with his own views, and best adapted to promote his own growth in grace." He should be a working member of the church, bearing the church upon his heart, and its work in his hands. Christ said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing."

As the teacher's work is with the Bible he should be a Bible student, seeking into its sacred pages for the truth which shall feed his own soul and supply the needs of his class. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." He must study not only the lesson, but the chapter, the book containing the lesson.

The teacher must be a friend, to influence souls. There must be a contact of heart with heart.

The teacher must be a friend in sympathy and helpfulness, he must be able to put himself in the pupil's place. To win the scholar's love, is to love the scholar. His friendship will show itself in acts, in the loving spirit which prompts them, a helping hand to one in trouble, will make a teacher's influence potent.

A teacher must have a knowledge of the principles and methods of teaching, and understand the work in which he is engaged. He must know his opportunities, and make the most of them. He must fit his lesson to the class, and not the class to the lesson. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, and it shall be given him."—S.

Lillie Evard recently contributed \$1.86 to the Mission Band, money of her own saving. We are always glad to see such a spirit manifesting itself. Many children never think of earning or saving anything for the church, they only think of spending. This is true also of many old people. Earn and save your pennies for Jesus, this is far better. Lillie is setting a good example for young and old.

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## BRIEF AND PERSONAL.

Annual excursion to Rome City, Aug. 19th.

Mrs. Zartman and daughter Josie are having a pleasant visit with Mrs. Zartman's parents and other friends at Canton, Ohio.

Miss Mollie McClure has gone to Bay View, Mich., to spend a few months. Her health is very much improved.

During the pastor's vacation Dr. Steimen filled the pulpit at Grace Church one Sabbath. The people were well pleased with the Dr.'s Sermon.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Henderson, have returned to the city, after a visit of several months with relatives at Erie, Pa. We are glad to see them at our services again.

Miss Nellie French recently visited with her aunt Mrs. Gillett, and daughter Bessie, at Holgate, Ohio. We are glad to learn that Bessie will return to school next year.

The 19th of August will be the date for our annual excursion to Rome City. Many of the members and friends of the church have been inquiring about the date, and seem anxious to go. The hot weather is just coming; get ready, every person, to go to Island Park, it is just the place for a day's cooling. The next issue of the VISITOR will give full particulars of the excursion.

Island Park Assembly opens July 29th and continues to Aug. 12th. The programme is one of the best. Our people should avail themselves of these opportunities to hear some of the best talent in the country.

Sabbath morning, July 5th., Rev. Rettig the of the Orphans Home, preached for the Salem Reformed Church. Some years ago he was pastor of this church, and has many friends in that community.

June 11th, Hildah Evelylin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pfeiffer, received the ordinance of baptism. On the same date Mr. Daniel Grubb was received into Grace Church by letter from the Reformed Church at Bellevue, Ohio.

Get ready for the excursion to Island Park, Aug. 19th. Train will leave the South depot at 8, in the morning. You can return at 7:30 p. m., or at midnight. If you want to stay for the late train you can have a moonlight ride on the lake.

For the benefit of those who may be interested in knowing for what sins persons may be excluded from the church, we call their attention to the 94th article of the constitution of the Reformed Church, which reads as follows:

Art. 94, the following sins especially claim the attention of the church judicatories, and merit exclusion; heresy, blasphemy, public chism, perjury, adultery, contentiousness, intemperance, falsehood, filthy lucre, lascivious wantonness, gross profanity on the Lord's day, impudent scoffing, cruelty to servants, and others of similar character.

The visit of the pastor and his family at Glenford, Ohio, was brief, but very much enjoyed. Father and mother were just recovering from severe attacks of la grippe. Our visit was entirely too short for them. We should have been glad to tarry longer with them, had it not been that we desired to attend the convention at Minneapolis. It is a great privilege to return to the old home and mingle for a season with those who are so dear to our hearts. May the Lord deal gently with our loved ones, and spare them to gladden and comfort our hearts for many years hence. If life is spared we shall hope to visit home oftener and remain longer. The cool, pure country atmosphere was refreshing and invigorating to us. While at home we were glad to meet the new pastor of the Glenford Charge, the Rev. Mr. Fisher. He is entering upon his work with a will and determination, and the people are well pleased with his work.

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July 29, Consecration meeting. Lessons from the Timid Disciples. John 3, 2; 7: 50-53; 19, 39. Birdie Saffern.

Aug. 2, How Christ rested (A vacation subject). Mark 6: 31; 4: 38-39. Willis Souder.

Aug. 9, Christ Our Judge. Rom. 2: 16; 14: 9; II. Cor. 5: 10. John Romy.

Aug. 16, God's care for our daily needs. Matt. 6: 25-33; Luke 22: 35. Etta Souder.

Aug. 23, Seeking the best things. John 6: 27; I. Kings 3: 11-13. Lillie Walters.

Aug. 30, The parting of the two ways. John 7: 40-44; 11: 45-46; 7: 12; 6: 66. Consecration meeting. Katie Walters.

Statements have been issued to the members, of their accounts with the church for the first six months of the year 1891. The consistory finds that the church is well pleased with the present system of payments. During the pastor's absence there being no services, naturally there would be an arrearage of a few Sabbaths on the part of some. This will, however, soon all be corrected, as all those who are in arrears will balance their accounts at an early day.

The monthly meeting of the Young People's Society was held Tuesday evening, July 21st. After the regular business was transacted they had a banquet. The following persons responded to toasts: D. W. Souder, F. D. Paulus, Lillie Vordermark, Lillie Walters, Katie Vordermark, Eugene Mathis, and the pastor. The evening was spent very pleasantly.

At the monthly meeting of the Young People's Society held Tuesday evening July 21st, it was decided that at the Consecration Meetings each member should bring an offering for Missions. If possible let it be at the rate of 2 cents per week. If you can give more do so, if not that much give as the Lord prospers you.

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